

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely has amendments to 180 to be printed; Senator Schmit to 279. (See pages 1428-30 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Proceeding then to priority bills on General File. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first bill this morning is 467. The bill was introduced by Senator Vard Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21, referred to the Revenue Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. I do have Revenue Committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Johnson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would hope that we could put the committee amendments on this bill fairly easily and then go into the protracted debate on the bill and other amendments that I suspect folk will offer, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. In fact, I said to myself this morning as I got out of bed, I said, I expect to be here virtually all day on this bill and I have no reason at this point not to believe that would be the case. As you know, we have come to a painful pass and that painful pass is that it is necessary for this Legislature to consider whether or not it will reduce the parimutuel taxes for at least a temporary period of time on the race tracks in Nebraska. And the primary race track in Nebraska affected by the reduction of the parimutuel tax, because it is a primary taxpayer, is the race track at Ak-Sar-Ben. The committee amendment is an amendment that was necessary for essentially legislative accounting purposes so that the reduction in the tax and so that the allowance of a capital improvement and maintenance credit could be properly handled with respect to the State Fair. The State Fair...the State Fair's appropriation and bookkeeping is different because it is a public entity than the bookkeeping for Ak-Sar-Ben or for Fonner Park or for Atokad or for Columbus. I didn't fully realize that as I was doing 467. So that the State Fair track, the Lincoln track, is put on the same footing as the other tracks, the committee amendment is necessary to make that arrangement. That's all it is. It's basically an accounting amendment and, with that, I would ask your quick support for the committee amendment and then we will discuss the bill at length.